TO: Park & Recreation Commission Members

FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator

Jon Steffes, Summer Recreation Director

DATE: January 6, 2021 RE: Meeting Notice

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 5:30 p.m., La Crescent City Hall

315 Main Street

AGENDA

- 1. Consideration of meeting minutes October 19, 2020.
- 2. Update and discussion on current and future trail extensions. Information regarding a trail that utilizes a portion of the dedicated right-of-way in the Apple Blossom Pointe development is included. Tom Tornstrom from the La Crescent Township Board may be in attendance at the meeting to discuss this item.
- 3. Review City's 2017 Blufflands Plan. A copy of the plan will be e-mailed out separately.
- 4. Review Stoney Point tree cutting. Discussion regarding the preparation of a formal plan focused on future maintenance activities and permitted uses in the City's natural spaces. The information that was presented to the City Council on this topic is included.
- 5. Update on phase 3 of the Wagon Wheel improvement project. A copy of the phase 3 preliminary plan for the project is included.
- 6. Review use of outdoor ice rink installed at the corner of Main Street and Oak Street.
- 7. Additional Discussion Items.
- 8. Set date for next Commission meeting.
- 9. Adjournment.

NOTICE

Please take notice that pursuant to Minn. Stat. Section 13D.021, members of the Park & Recreation Commission may attend the meeting by telephone or zoom.

Please call me at 895-2595, or e-mail me at bwaller@cityoflacrescent-mn.gov, if you will not be able to attend, have questions, or need more information.

Thank you.



TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members Park and Recreation Commission Members

FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator

DATE: October 20, 2020 RE: Meeting Minutes October 19, 2020

The La Crescent Park and Recreation Commission met at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, October 19, 2020, in the City Council Chambers at the La Crescent City Hall. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. Section 13D.021 and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the Park & Recreation Commission and City staff were given the option to attend the meeting by telephone. The following members were present in person: Jon Steffes, Paul McLellan, Sarah Wetterlin, Diana Adamski, and Mike Limberg. Commission members Eileen Krenz and Randy Dobbs were not in attendance. Also in attendance in person were Chris Fortsch and Bill Waller.

- 1. It was the consensus of the Commission to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2020 Park and Recreation Commission meeting as presented.
- 2. Chris Fortsch provided an update to the Commission on the participation rates for the modified 2020 summer recreation season, and a sampling of Facebook posts regarding the Aquatic Center. Copies are attached to these minutes.
- 3. Jon Steffes reviewed the 2020 summer recreation programming and discussed the 2021 budget.
- 4. The Commission was updated on the status of the third phase of the Wagon Wheel improvement project, and a copy of the monitoring plan for the project was reviewed.
- 5. The Commission reviewed an alternative regarding a joint use outdoor skating rink in the winter that would be converted to pickleball courts in the summer. The conceptual plan is attached to these minutes.
- 6. It was the consensus of the Commission to recommend that the City Council proceed with the purchase of an \$2,600 outdoor skating package that would be installed on the City's lot on the corner of Main Street and Oak Street for use in the winter of 2020/2021.
- 7. The Commission reviewed a request to install a backboard at the tennis courts. It was agreed that this would be reviewed again at a future Commission meeting.
- 8. Commission member Paul McLellan reviewed with the Commission the availability of grants for trail development as it related to components of the City's 2017 Blufflands Plan. Mr. McLellan agreed to prepare a summary of the plan and that this item would be added to the agenda for the next Commission meeting.
- 9. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission would be Tuesday, January 19, 2021, at 5:30 pm., at City Hall.
- 10. There being nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:15 pm.



2019-2020 Park & Rec Program Review

2020 Tennis	Session 1: 46 Session 2: 21	TOTAL:
2019 Tennis	08	TOTAL:
2020 Softball	33	TOTAL:
2019 2020 Softball Softball	42	TOTAL:
2020 Golf	Session 1: 21 Session 2: 7	TOTAL: 28
2019 Golf	Session 1: 26 Session 2: 5	TOTAL:
2019 2020 aseball Baseball	56	TOTAL:
2019 2020 Baseball Baseball	92	TOTAL:

2020 Swimming Lessons	259	TOTAL: 259
2019 Swimming Lessons	069	TOTAL: 690



Thank you to the La Crescent and ISD300 Community for a great 2020 season. We appreciate the patience and support while we learned how to operate an aquatic center during COVID-19. We are proud to say we remained open from start to finish without any hiccups! We hope to be back to our normal capacity, opening dates, and activities for next year. We will close at 5:00 today for the season. Thank you for a wonderful summer, and we hope to see everyone in May 2021!



Ashley Rose

Thanks for taking all of the precautions to make the pool an option this summer for our kiddos! Your hard work and dedication was appreciated!

Like · Reply · 8w





Debra Oliver

Jon steffes, you and your whole crew, did an amazing job. Thank you for all you guys did.

Like · Reply · 8w





Annette Gittens

Thank all of you who made this possible.

Like · Reply · 8w





Robyn Woodall

So grateful our pool was open this summer! Thank you for making it work!

Like · Reply · 8w





Kim Ryan

Thank you Mr. Steffes and crew for a fun summer at the pool!!

Like · Reply · 8w





Ashley Lorenz

Thank you Mr. Steffes and the lifeguards and front desk people for keeping it open....

Like · Reply · 8w





Joan Cal Mitchell

Thank you all....it was a great summer.

Like · Reply · 8w





Angie Zaiger TenKley

Thank you for a great summer!

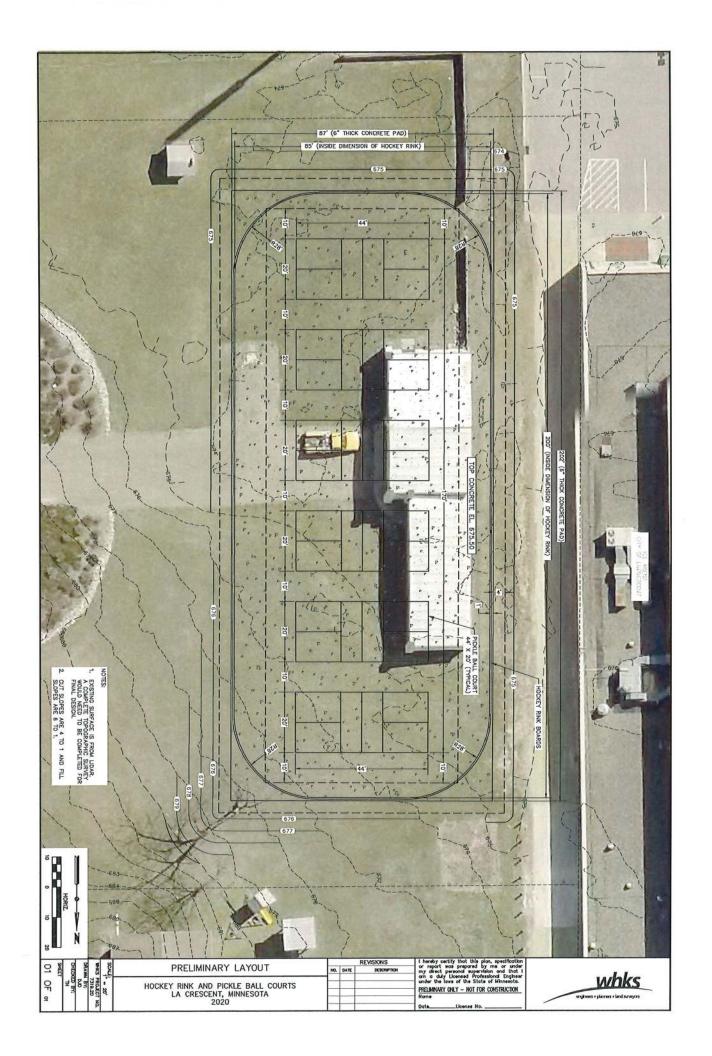
Like · Reply · 8w





Angela Schroeder Ries

Thanks for a little normalcy of summer 💚



#2

Bill Waller

From:

Mark nigogosyan <mnigogos@me.com>

Sent:

Saturday, December 5, 2020 4:36 PM

To:

nmburg@gmail.com; rebecca.wolf85@gmail.com; John McCoy;

Gmeinertz@fowlerhammer.com; Bill Waller; ttornstrom@gmail.com

Subject:

The trail issue

Attachments:

PastedGraphic-2.tiff; bluffland plan.pdf

Hello everyone.

This is in reference to the trail issue in the second addition. I have been contracted by, or have contacted the following people:

Nikki Dockendorff
Joe Dockendorff
Rebecca Wolf
Becca Meinertz
Greg Meinertz
John McCoy
Deb McCoy
Don Hill
Bill Waller (City Administrator)
Tom Tornstrom (LaCrescent Township Board)

Below is a map of the area of concern-the thick black (our property) and green line (previously proposed road that has been set aside for public usage) is the trail that would connect the 2 additions. This platt map infers I own some of the open area of the addition-thus the additional thin black line. (I am **not** making a claim here as to whether this open area is mine or not-only expressing uncertainty of where the trail might traverse our property). This runs roughly 1000 feet.

I recognize and sympathize that this is a disputed issue amongst the stakeholders. As Judy and I have stated quite clearly in the past on several occasions, we think having a walking trail is a good thing for the community (our initial email is far below). Bill Waller also shared with me the Bluffland plan (attached) which also reinforces this idea of a walking trail.

How should this be solved? Here are some thoughts:

- Public-private land exchange to route the trail around properties.
- Well defined fenced in pathway to access the train funded by the stakeholders (shared with the township?)

But we want to be clear-it is not for us to find the solution-it should be the stakeholders!

Can this be solved with legal battles? Perhaps but it seems like an unnecessary expense and will only serve to further generate ill will.

We strongly encourage the above individuals to find a compromise.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Nigogosyan and Judy Klevan

Hello,

We are writing regarding the issue of allowing use of our property that is part of the trail between the 2nd additions and the old Lautz development.

The history dates back to almost 10 years ago when the LaCrescent mayor contacted us because they were hoping we would sell an easement to connect the two additions. We were not interested in having a road through our property, so we denied that request. Since that time, the route has been the site of a walking trail, one end of it starts on the easement which is on the driveway of the Meinertz property.

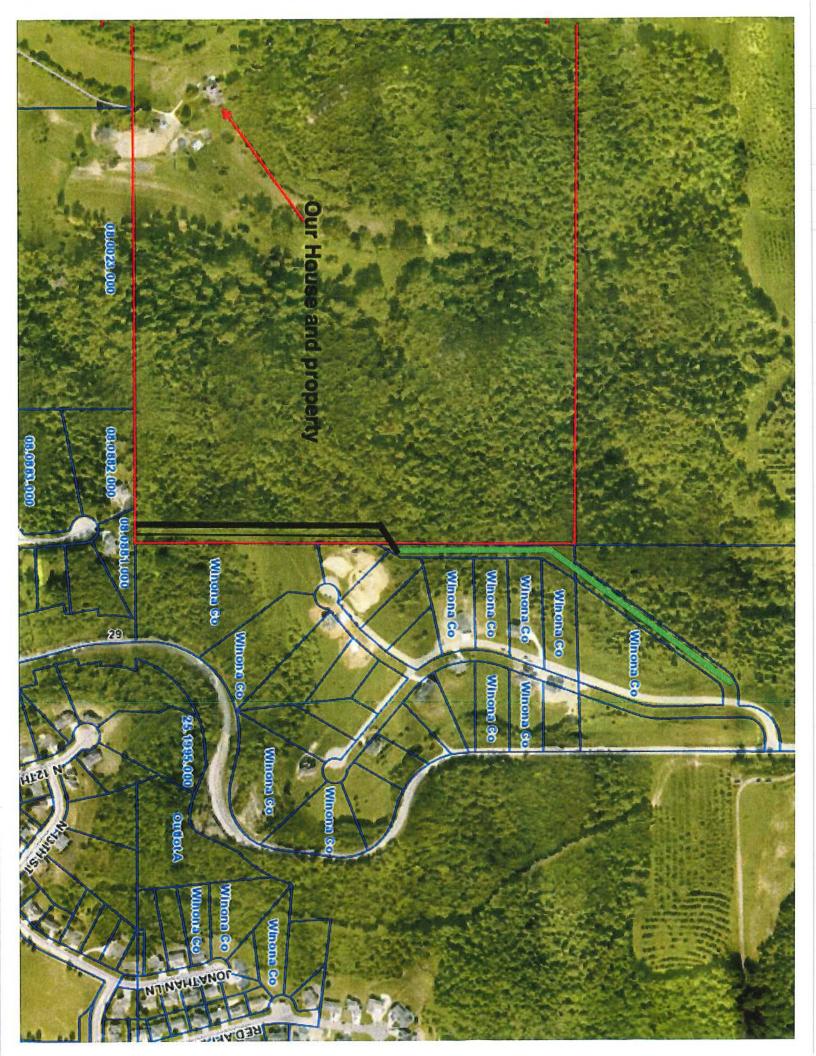
Our position has not changed in all these years. We agree to have walkers on the trail but no motorized vehicles. If that restriction cannot be observed, then we would have to change our position and disallow access. The trail needs to have orange markers placed to designate the path so we can review its proposed position. We would suggest keeping the path narrow enough that it would be difficult to navigate a motorized vehicle and walkers should stick to the path..

Our position on this issue will not please all parties, but we would like the families who have different opinions to speak directly to each other and find a compromise that all can live with. This conversation should also include parties from the old Lautz orchard development.

We understand everyone's desire to have privacy on their land but our values include trying to share some of the beauty that we have the privilege to own. That is why we have Hmong families farming on our property at no cost to them and allow our neighbors to hunt.

Please let us know when you have reached agreement and when the trail has been marked.

Thank you, Judy Klevan Mark Nigogosyan



#4



TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator

DATE: December 9, 2020 RE: Stoney Point Tree Cutting

By now you have all received numerous e-mails and photographs of the tree cutting that occurred on the Stoney Point property that is owned by the City. The tree cutting activities were performed by a group that identifies themselves as the La Crescent Trails Association. The La Crescent Trails Association is not a group that has ever been formally recognized or designated by the City Council. Further, the groups function, purpose, scope of work, activities, or projects have never been presented to the City Council for review and consideration. A letter that was sent to the group advising them to discontinue any future activity on City owned property is included.

Included are letters from a community resident that detail the sentiment and resentment for what happened at Stoney Point.

Jason Ludwigson, the City's Sustainability Coordinator, was involved in the tree cutting activities as a volunteer with the group. Mr. Ludwigson's position with the City is a contracted position. Correspondence from Mr. Ludwigson regarding his involvement in this activity is included.

We are suggesting that the City Council consider the following to ensure that the City's natural spaces are preserved and maintained in accordance with City approved policies and plans. When we reference natural spaces, we are referring to Eagles Bluff Park which is 124 acres, and Vollenweider/Vetsch/Stoney Point Park which is a combined 106 acres.

The City Attorney and I are working to draft a City policy that will define the maintenance related to the City's natural spaces, and will prevent activities such as this from happening in the future. This policy will be presented at a future City Council meeting.

In addition, we are currently reviewing options to prepare a formal plan that will include a public engagement component that focuses on various aspects of the City's natural spaces. We intend to present a proposal in the future to hire a consultant to assist with the preparation of this plan. The plan would focus on the following items:

- Recreational
- Forestry management
- Invasive species management
- View shed maintenance
- Solar/renewable energy facilities
- Prairie/grassland management

It is our intent that nothing further will happen until such time that both a policy and plan are adopted by the City Council.

cityoflacrescent-mn.gov



TO: Maseray Severn

FROM: Bill Waller, City Administrator

DATE: November 30, 2020

RE: Stoney Point/Vetsch Park/Eagles Bluff Park

For your information, in the past few days the Mayor, members of the City Council, and myself have received numerous phone calls, e-mails, and visits regarding tree cutting activities which occurred in properties owned by the City, specifically Stoney Point/Vetsch Park, and now Eagles Bluff Park.

Evidently this work may have been performed under the heading of the La Crescent Trials Organization. Please be advised that the City of La Crescent does not recognize the La Crescent Trials Organization as a designated entity of the City. Further, the La Crescent Trails Organization is not authorized to perform any work on any City property.

Please discontinue any future or planned activities on any City owned property. Failure to adhere to this directive may result in future penalties.

Bill Waller

om:

lymanjb <lymanjb@acegroup.cc>

Sent:

Saturday, November 28, 2020 9:21 PM

To:

Bill Waller

Subject:

Eagles Bluff

Bill,

Hikers in Eagles Bluff today encountered what they are calling fresh cut trees. I am not an eye witness to this. They said along the trail and the vistas. They included only one pic of a tree along the trail but indicated multiple beautiful trees chopped down at the vista.

A group of us have become a group to advocate against the LaCrescent Volunteer Trails Group. We are asking the city for transparency and accountability. We would like a list of where they have done their improvements. It is now apparent they were not only in the ravine and the point but also Eagles Bluff Park. We also would like to know what penalties they will incur for unauthorized cutting of trees in multiple city parks. We are asking this group disband due to their reckless, unauthorized, entitled improvement of city parks. As of yesterday, Maseray Bangura is still stating they did and will continue to carry out city sanctioned work. Please help us save the parks that we have hiked, some for 50 plus years, from this misguided group. I have learned on my own and from some fellow hikers all about invasive specie removal as this seems to be what they are now saying all the tree cutting is. Not a black and white issue. Not always recommended in every instance. And most certainly not done in the crude, destructive, damaging, counter productive, dangerous manner this was carried out in. I could not even take my grandaughters up the point this weekend. Handholds are gone and dangerous spikes everywhere. We are the ones that hike the parks, we have grown up in them or lived here a very long time. We love the parks and feel stepped on and deeply hurt by what has anspired. My reaction has been knee jerk and I have reacted in great anger but I guess I have "tree rage" and I am not alone. So many people, most whom I have never met, are concerned, upset, and plain baffled by this. How strange to have a group of avid hikers/ tree huggers fighting a Trail Improvement Group.

Bonnie Lyman

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Bill Waller

rom:

lymanjb <lymanjb@acegroup.cc>

Sent:

Tuesday, December 8, 2020 10:52 AM

To:

Bill Waller

Subject:

A few more thoughts

Bill,

I have not hiked up Eagle's Bluff for a couple of months. There are some pics circulating taken by a hiker a few days ago showing what he calls "the same sloppy work by a fool with a chainsaw". He didn't feel it was at the stark level of Stoney Point but again, done so poorly that he said he would not take his children up there.

Speaking only for myself, my issue is Stoney Point. I understand that sometimes it is warranted to remove juniper/red cedar in prairie restoration but as far as chopping up the very top of the rock outcrop, I don't get it. Most of the people I encounter on the point are either older than me or people with kids. Both of these populations required the trees to help navigate the natural sandstone steps.

I understand the intent of this club was to improve the point but they truly made it less accessible, dangerous, and unappealing.

I do not feel clubs are the correct avenue for extensive park improvement unless they have a city approved plan and expertise in carrying out their project. As someone who lives by Stoney Point and hikes Vetsch almost everyday it felt like a club decided to change Stoney Point and didn't care that the people that enjoy the point aren't happy with their work. In fact, continue to convey that their work is all approved by the city.

For me, because I belong to so many hiking and camping groups, I am all too aware that one of the consequences of Covid is people in droves heading out to forests with no respect for the land they tread on. The Boundary Waters, North hore, etc have seen vandalism at epic proportions. I realize this was not vandalism but it was so poorly executed, it appeared that way. Being in my backyard, it really hit home and I was really angry and continue to feel that this club has demonstrated they are not the people to carry out trail improvement.

Bonnie

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Mr. Waller,

The La Crescent Trails Association participated in a project intended to remove invasive species and restore the bluff or dry prairie on the High Ropes trail in the Stoney Point property. As a volunteer with this group, I participated in the invasive species removal. The work was completed on Sunday October 25th.

I do not know the exact number of tree species cut down on the Stoney Point (lookout). I would have to hike back to the location and do a count (I can certainly do that if needed). I removed buckthorn and red cedar from the Stoney Point (lookout).

I am not aware of the other tree removal activities in Vetsch Park and have not participated in those. To my knowledge the La Crescent Trails Association has not completed any tree removal in Vetsch Park. The group did discuss a potential project to clear the trees below the gazebo. Members of the group explained that those trees were not blocking the overlook from the gazebo when it was installed.

Jason Ludwigson

Jason Ludwigson





MEMORANDUM

TO:

Bill Waller, City Administrator

FROM:

Tim Hruska, P.E., L.S.

DATE:

October 20, 2020

RE:

Wagon Wheel Trail - Phase 3 Preliminary Plans

Per City Council direction, WHKS has prepared preliminary plans for the proposed Wagon Wheel Trail – Phase 3 pedestrian bridge. These plans are attached to the memo.

The proposed Pedestrian Bridge will be a truss structure with a decorative arch as shown in the rendering below. The western end of the bridge connects to South 1st Street at grade and the eastern end uses a concrete boardwalk to bring users down to the intersection of Sycamore Street and Chestnut Street. A 10' wide shared use path will also be constructed on the east side of Sycamore Street leading to Main Street.



As part of the project the section of South 1st Street from South Walnut Street to the east will be reconstructed. Two concept plans have been attached to this memo for discussion.

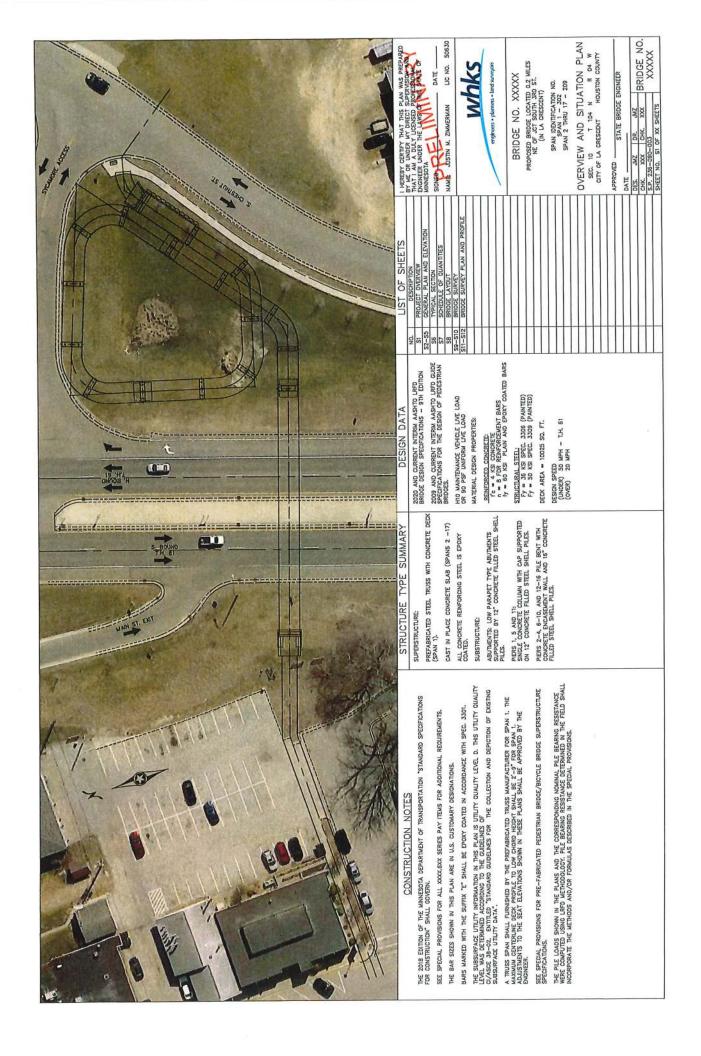
On October 8th, 2020 Archaeologists with the MnDOT Cultural Resource Unit, with the help of a local contractor hired by the City of La Crescent, used a small excavator to do some exploratory digging at the western abutment at the end of South 1st Street. A verbal confirmation that no significant items of interest were uncovered during this test dig. The final determination from the Cultural Recourse Unit is expected in the coming weeks.

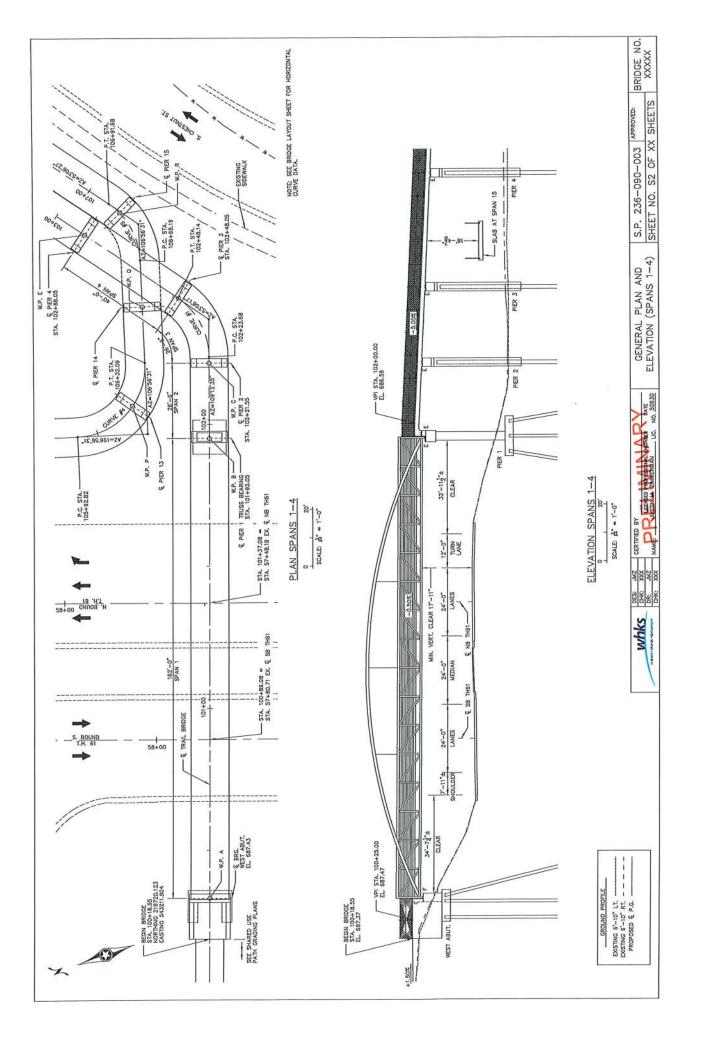


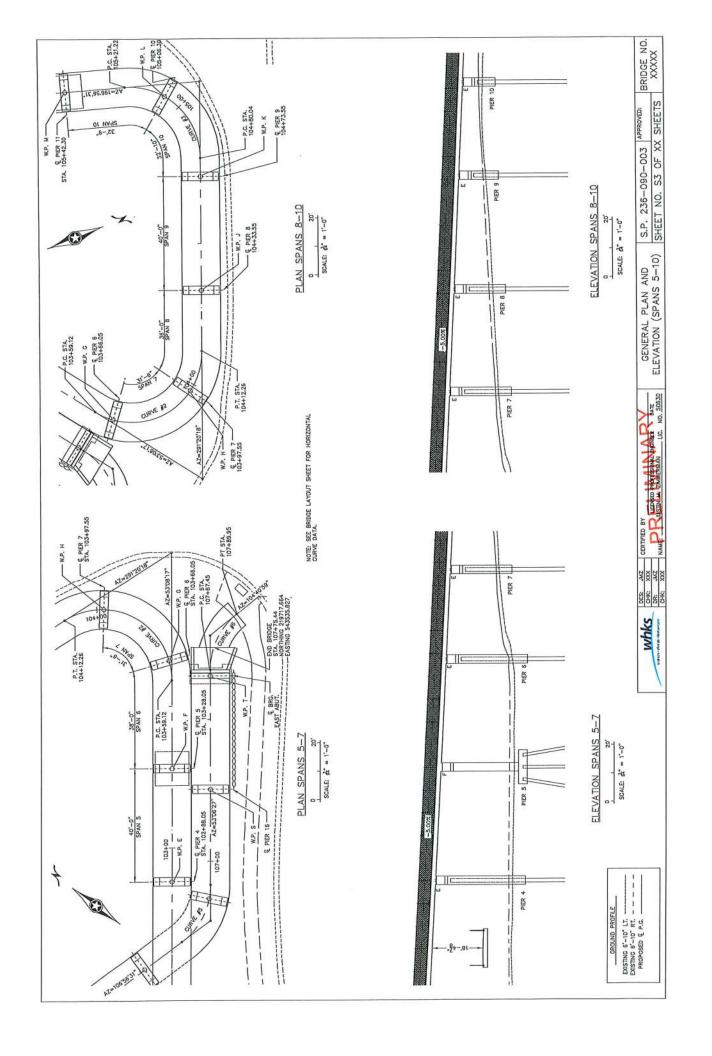
Final Construction Plans will be developed and go through a MnDOT Final Review this winter. The Wagon Wheel Trail – Phase 3 Project is scheduled to be Advertised and Awarded in the Spring of 2021 and completed by the Fall of 2021.

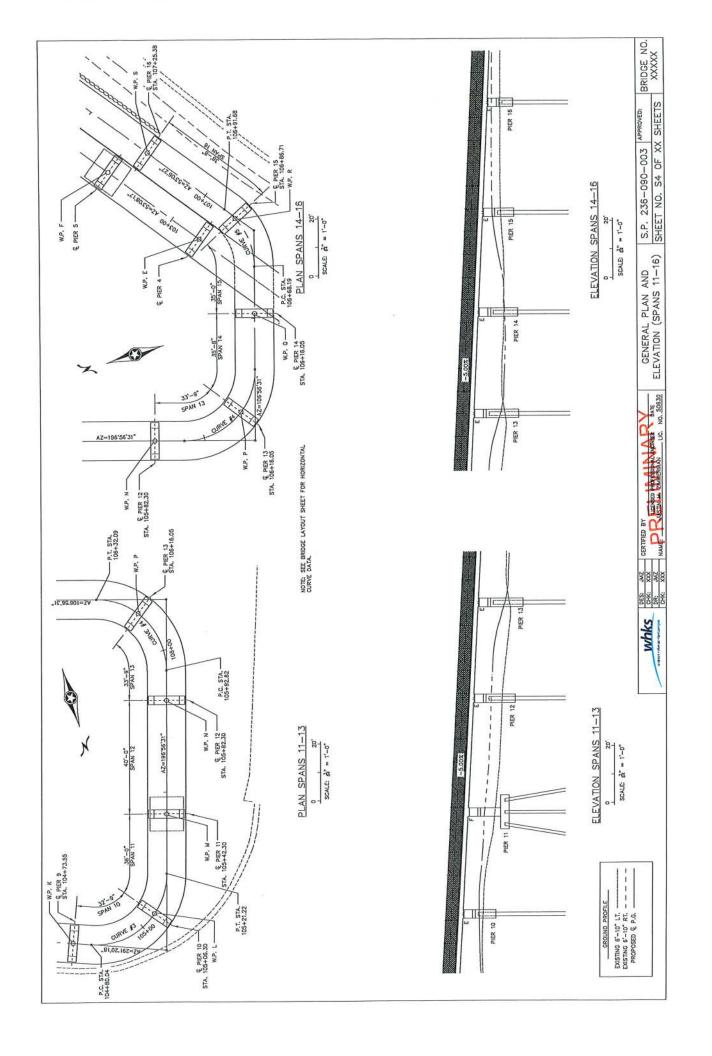
Council Action Recommendation

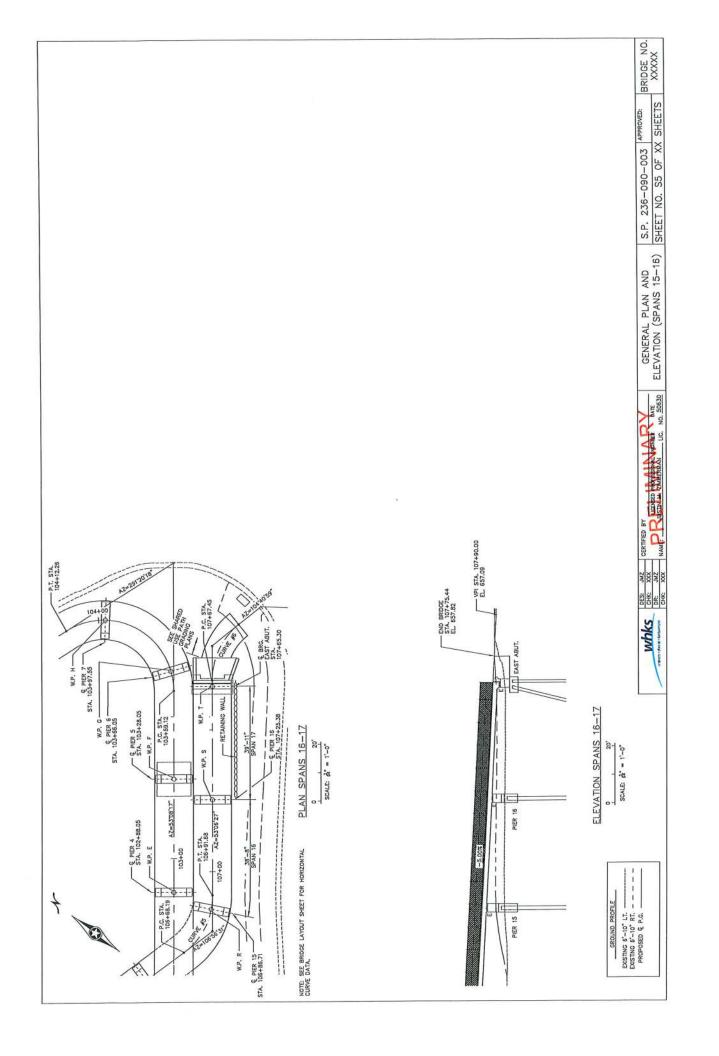
We recommend that the Council review the preliminary plans for submittal to the MnDOT Bridge Office.

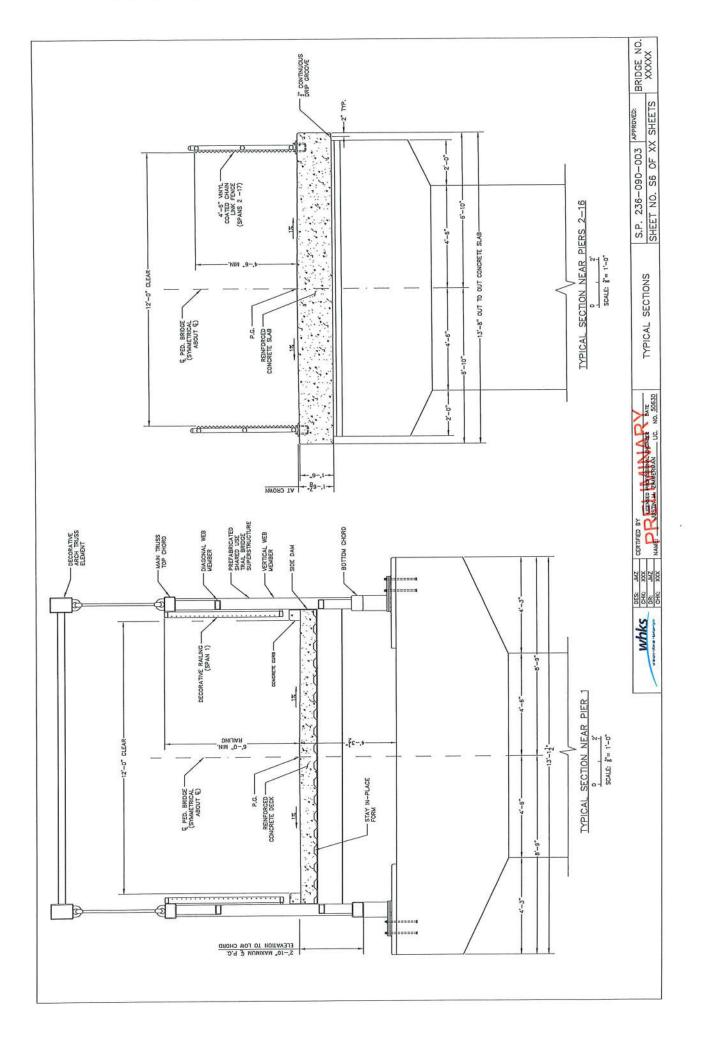












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SCH	SCHEDULE OF QUANTITIES FOR THE ENTIRE BRIDGE	ENTIRE	SRIDGE
ITEM NO.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	FIND	QUANTITY
2021,501	MOBILIZATION	LUMP SUM	
2401,507	STRUCTURAL CONCRETE (3852)	CUYD	
2401,508	REINFORCEMENT BARS (EPOXY COATED)	POUND	
2401,601	STRUCTURE EXCAVATION	LUMP SUM	
2401,618	BRIDGE SLAB CONCRETE (3YHPC-M)	SQFT	
2402,502	ELASTOMERIC BEARING PAD TYPE 1	EACH	
2402,503	EXPANSION JOINT DEVICES TYPE SPECIAL	FNI	
2402,601	PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE (SUPERSTRUCTURE)	LUMP SUM	
2411,618	ARCH SURFACE FINISH (SINGLE COLOR)	SOFT	
2452,502	C-I-P CONC TEST PILE 80 FT LONG 12"	EACH	
2452,502	C-LP CONC TEST PILE 70 FT LONG 12"	EACH	
2452,502	C-LP CONC TEST PILE 55 FT LONG 18*	EACH	
2452,502	C-I-P CONC TEST PILE 80 FT LONG 18*	EACH	
2452,502	C-I-P CONC TEST PILE 65 FT LONG 16*	EACH	
2452,502	C-I-P CONC TEST PILE 70 FT LONG 16*	EACH	
2452,502	C-I-P CONC TEST PILE 75 FT LONG 16*	EACH	
2452,502	C-I-P CONC TEST PILE 80 FT LONG 15*	EACH	
2452,603	C-1-P CONCRETE PILING 12"	LINE	
2452,603	C-I-P CONCRETE PILING 16*	LINE	
2545,501	LIGHTING SYSTEM	LUMP SUM	
2557,503	WIRE FENCE DESIGN SPECIAL VINYL COATED	FNI	
2563.601	TRAFFIC CONTROL	LUMP SUM	

